

From: Ian Joyner
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a non-U.S. citizen, I and many others find that the settlement between the U.S. Government and Microsoft is extremely weak kneed. I have followed this case since 1998. The settlement sends a message to the rest of the world that the U.S. is unable to protect fair business practices where it is seemingly against the interests of U.S. politics or economy. The settlement is however, against the interests of the public.

The settlement only tells Microsoft to modify its future behaviour. That is no punishment or compensation for the acts it has already committed against other companies. In other words, although Microsoft has been found guilty of such conduct under the Sherman Act, it is a win for Microsoft.

Microsoft bleats that it is defending the right to innovate. However, it has successfully defended the right to crush the innovation of others, without which many Microsoft products would not now exist, either by take over or by stealing the ideas and programming code off others.

The U.S. DOJ must review this case and impose stiffer penalties, even the break up into two or more companies, if the U.S. is to be trusted in the international community.

As a software professional, I would like to see balance and fairness restored in this industry, and am very concerned about this latest turn in this trial.

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